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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/517,714 03/02/00 GONZALEZ-MARTIN

J 29131.2241

EXAMINER

QM12/0118

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BANKS, D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED:

01/18/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application r proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/517,714

Applicant(s)
GONZALES-MARTIN ET AL.

Examiner
Derris H. Banks

Group Art Unit
3723



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 12-24 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 15-22 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 3723

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant should note that claims 109-119, 124, & 125 have been renumbered, under Rule 126, as claims 12-24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

3. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oishi et al.

Oishi et al. discloses a method for transferring workpieces from a first station to a second station, comprising the steps of: retrieving said workpieces (11) from said first station (i.e., load/unload station) (col. 4, lines 19-41) with a robot (4); flipping said workpieces (11) over with said robot (4) (col. 6, lines 33-37); placing said workpieces (11) on said second station (i.e., polishing station) with said robot (4) (col. 3, lines 54-61, col. 4, lines 28-41, and col. 6, lines 33-48); retrieving said workpieces (11) from a third station (i.e., cleaning station) with said robot (4); and placing said workpieces (11) on said first station with said robot (4) (col. 6, lines 67-68 and col. 7, lines 1-10), wherein said robot (4) includes at least one workpiece gripping device for retrieving and holding said workpieces (11) (col. 4, lines 35-41 and col. 6, lines 37-48).

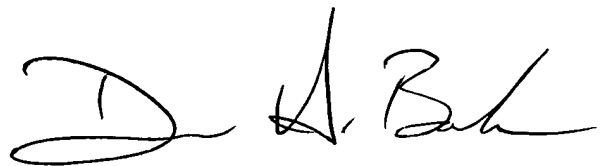
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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 15-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. Claims 23 and 24 are allowable over prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gupta et al.; Rosenquist; Oishi et al.; and Peterson et al.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Derris H. Banks whose telephone number is (703) 308-1745 or Fax number (703) 305-3579.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. H. Banks", written in a cursive style.

**DERRIS H. BANKS
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

dhb

January 13, 2001